

## REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

### Priority

The Examiner comments on the summary page of the instant office action that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. The Examiner further comments on page 3 of the instant office action that certain requirements relating to the priority documents have not been met.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

On April 15, 2004, Applicant filed certified copies of the priority documents, which are viewable on PAIR.

During a teleconference between the Examiner and Applicant's Attorney on March 21, 2006, Applicant's Attorney explained that the priority documents filed with the USPTO on April 15, 2004, and viewable on PAIR, are indeed certified copies of the priority documents. As discussed, the priority documents viewable on PAIR show the serial number and corresponding file date on page 3 (hand written) and on page 5 (typed), and it is Applicant's understanding and belief that the certified copies from France are received at the USPTO with a brass rivet not a ribbon, the brass rivet being evidenced by the black dot in the upper left hand corner of the image viewable on PAIR. It is Applicant's further understanding and belief that the USPTO, once in possession of the certified priority documents, removes the brass rivet (or ribbon if present) to enable scanning of the documents for entry into the image file wrapper, which then becomes viewable on PAIR.

As such, Applicant submits that the priority documents filed April 15, 2004, are indeed the required certified priority documents, and that such documents do in fact include the associated serial number and file date of the foreign filed application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the certified copy of the foreign application, as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) has been filed, and requests acknowledgment that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received, as evidenced by the documents already received and viewable on PAIR.

### Status of Claims

Claims 1-95 are pending in the application. Claims 1-60 stand rejected. Claims 61-95 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Applicant has amended Claims 1-3, 15-21, 28, and 38-60, cancelled Claim 91, and added new